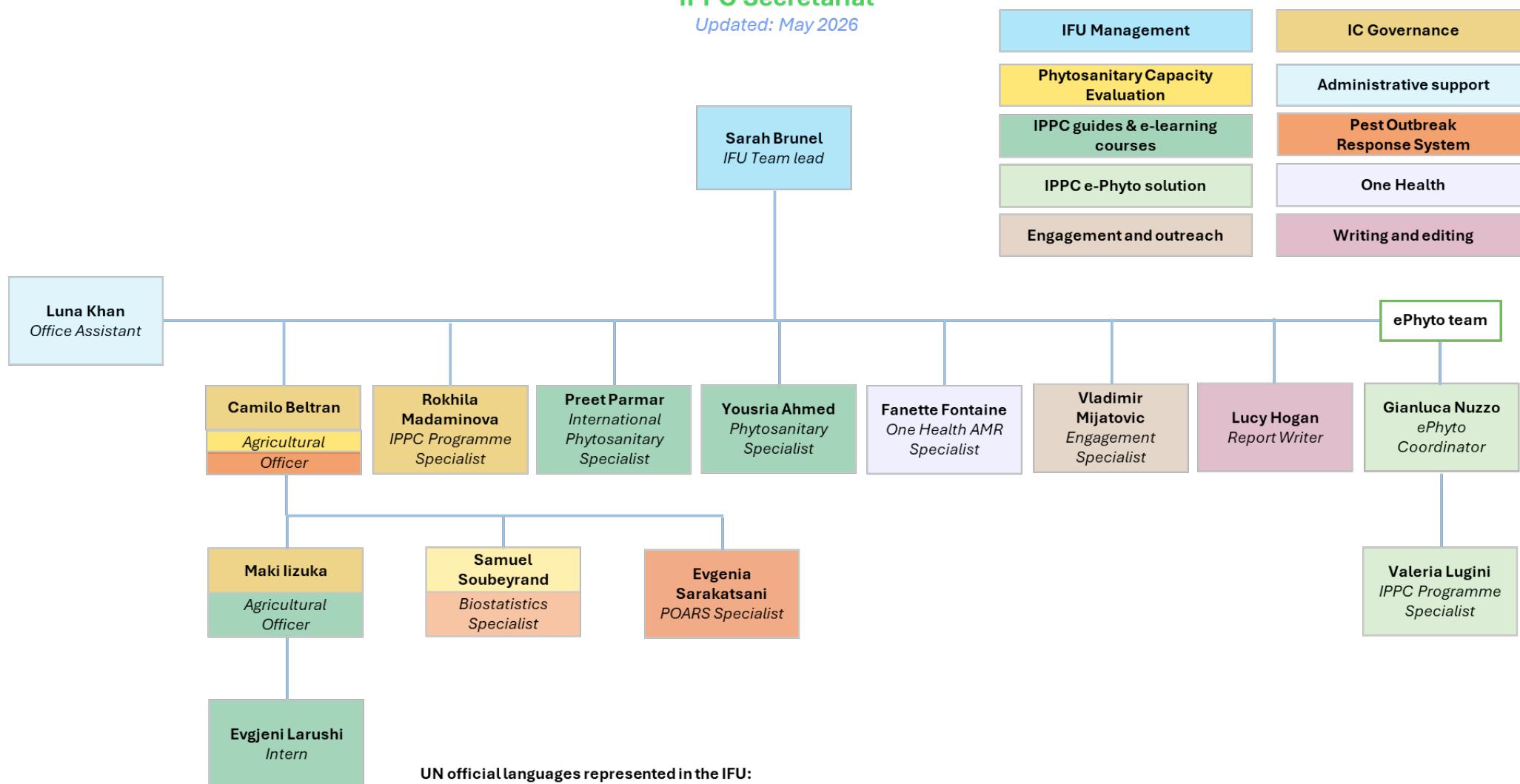




Implementation and Facilitation Unit (IFU) IPPC Secretariat


Updated: May 2026



UN official languages represented in the IFU:
Arabic, English, French, Russian and Spanish

IPPC implementation and facilitation unit Staff

* Funded from FAO Regular Programme resource

| Management | | |
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|  | <p>Sarah BRUNEL IFU Unit Leader P-4*</p> <p>Based in: Rome (HQ) Room: B760 Tel: 53768 E-mail: Sarah.Brunel@fao.org</p> | <p>Sarah leads the Implementation and Facilitation Unit (IFU), which coordinates implementation, facilitation and capacity development activities such as the production of IPPC guides and training materials, phytosanitary capacity evaluations and capacity strengthening activities to address emerging pests.</p> <p>Sarah's focus is on the coordination of implementation projects and management of the IFU's workplan, including staffing, budgeting, resource mobilization and strategies. She is the IPPC Secretariat's lead on One Health.</p> <p>Sarah is also the secretariat's liaison with organizations such as the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF), Centre for Agriculture and Bioscience International (CABI), Comité de Liaison Entrepreneuriat – Agriculture – Développement (COLEAD), the European Union and the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA).</p> <p>Sarah is an agricultural engineer from the Institut Supérieur d'Agriculture Rhône-Alpes (ISARA). She has a master's degree in international affairs and another in anthropology from Sorbonne University and the French Museum of Natural History, respectively.</p> <p>She has more than 20 years of national, regional and international experience in plant protection, pest and disease control policies and legislation, implementation of standards for phytosanitary measures, environmental protection and capacity development.</p> <p>She is a French national and speaks English, French, Italian and Spanish.</p> |

Administrative Support

**Luna Khan**

Office Assistant

Based in: Rome (HQ)**E-mail:** Luna.Khan@fao.org


Luna joined the United Nations system in 2023, beginning her career at the World Food Programme (WFP). In 2024, she moved to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), where she supported the East and Southern Africa Service (CFIA) before transitioning to the Asia and the Pacific Service (CFIB) at the FAO Investment Centre. Across these roles, she has contributed to streamlined workflows, strengthened cross-regional coordination, and supported key operational and programmatic processes. Her work has included facilitating recruitment cycles, enhancing travel and mission planning, improving document and information management, and ensuring clarity and consistency in official communication.



Luna is a national of Italy and holds a bachelor's degree in Philosophy and a master's degree in Philosophical Studies from La Sapienza Università di Roma, where she specialized in Philosophy of Language and Gender Studies. Her academic background strengthened her analytical skills and deepened her commitment to gender equality, social inclusion, and intercultural dialogue.

A native Italian speaker, she is fluent in English, French, and Spanish, with introductory knowledge of German.



She brings strong communication abilities, intercultural sensitivity, and organizational strengths to her work.



| IC governance & implementation coordination | | |
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|  | <p>Camilo BELTRAN MONTROYA Agricultural Officer P3</p> <p>Based in: Rome (HQ)</p> <p>E-mail: Camilo.BeltranMontoya@fao.org</p> | <p>Camilo Beltrán Montoya is a Colombian engineer in Agriculture and holds a master's degree in plant protection.</p> <p>Camilo is currently responsible for coordinating the Steering Group on Pest Outbreak and Alert Response Systems, manage the National Reporting Obligations (NROs) and support the implementation of Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluations (PCEs). He coordinates the phytosanitary component of a joint project between IPPC and the FAO food safety unit to deliver Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluations (PCEs) in eleven African countries. He has facilitated PCEs in Cambodia, Kenya, and the Seychelles, provided technical support for IPPC Secretariat activities related to Fusarium TR4, and contributed to developing tabletop exercises for this disease. At the IPPC Secretariat, Camilo has also worked as an International Phytosanitary Specialist, overseeing the development of guidelines for prevention, preparedness, and response for Fusarium TR4. Additionally, he has organized webinars on the diagnosis and surveillance of Fusarium TR4 and supported the coordination of the FAO/IPPC Technical Working group for <i>Spodoptera frugiperda</i>.</p> <p>Camilo has prior experience as a plant health international officer at the General Secretariat of the Andean Community, which is a regional plant protection organization. He specialized in plant health, pesticide registration, and regional initiatives targeting pests such as citrus Huanglongbing and Fusarium TR4.</p> <p>Camilo has also worked at the NPPO of Colombia, where he supported the establishment and certification of the phytosanitary status and regulated pests list. Camilo is fluent in English and Spanish</p> |
|  | <p>Maki IIZUKA Agricultural Officer</p> <p>Based in: Rome (HQ)</p> <p>E-mail: Maki.Iizuka@fao.org</p> | <p>Maki leads the Implementation and Capacity Development Committee (IC) team on Contributed Resources. She also coordinates the revision of the IPPC Procedure Manual for Implementation and Capacity Development and supports the development and publication of resources on implementation and capacity development. Maki is responsible for updating content on the International Phytosanitary Portal (IPP) on the IPPC's work on implementation and supporting communications activities.</p> <p>Maki has seven years of working experience as a plant protection officer in the phytosanitary field. Prior to joining the IPPC Secretariat, she was involved in phytosanitary inspection at seaports and bilateral consultations on plant protection in the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries in Japan.</p> |



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| | | Maki has master's and bachelor's degrees in agriculture from the Tokyo University of Agriculture and Technology. She speaks English and Japanese. |
|  | <p>Rokhila MADAMINOVA IPPC Programme Specialist</p> <p>Based in: Rome (HQ)</p> <p>E-mail: Rokhila.Madaminova@fao.org</p> | <p>Rokhila is the IFU lead for the IPPC Observatory and the Implementation and Capacity Development Committee (IC) Subgroup on IPPC Observatory. She coordinates the implementation and monitoring of IFU phytosanitary activities and projects and co-leads the IC Team on Projects. Additionally, Rokhila is the IFU focal point for communication activities and publication of implementation and capacity development resources.</p> <p>She prepares reports for the IC meetings held every in May and November, and leads the 19th session Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM) session dedicated to successes and challenges in implementing IPPC, ISPMs, and CPM recommendations.</p> <p>Prior to joining the secretariat, Rokhila worked for the International Development Law Organization in Rome and for the South Caucasus and Central Asia Bulletin in Edinburgh, Scotland.</p> <p>Rokhila has a Master of Arts in Political Science and International Relations from the Central European University. She speaks English, Russian, and Uzbek.</p> |

| IPPC guides and e-learning courses | | |
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|  | <p>Preet Kamal PARMAR International Phytosanitary Specialist</p> <p>Based in: Rome (HQ) E-mail: Preet.Parmar@fao.org</p> | <p>Preet coordinates and leads the development of several e-learning courses, including e-learning courses on Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation and emergency preparedness.</p> <p>Prior to joining the IPPC Secretariat, Preet worked for the New Zealand National Plant Protection Organization (NPPO) for six years. She was involved in developing phytosanitary requirements following International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs) to manage phytosanitary risks associated with importing fresh fruits and vegetables into New Zealand. She was also part of a team comprising representatives from the New Zealand NPPO and the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. The team worked on improving and enhancing phytosanitary certification systems in selected Pacific Island countries. More recently, she worked as a Senior Adviser for the response group in the NPPO, responding to pest detections in New Zealand.</p> <p>Preet is a New Zealand national. She holds a bachelor's degree in Biological Sciences and master's degree in Biosecurity and Conservation from the University of Auckland, New Zealand.</p> |
|  | <p>Yousria AHMED Phytosanitary Specialist</p> <p>Based in: Egypt E-mail: Yousria.Ahmed@fao.org</p> | <p>Yousria is a Phytosanitary Specialist with over 17 years of experience in plant pathology, phytosanitary measures, molecular diagnostics, and food safety. She serves as a Plant Quarantine Officer and Consultant for the Plant Quarantine Directorate in Port Sudan and is an active member of the Plant Quarantine Experts Committee. Her areas of expertise include leading diagnostic laboratories, diagnostic protocols adoption, conducting pest risk analyses, national pest list updates, training staff and university undergraduates, and contributing to national phytosanitary policy development.</p> <p>She previously headed the Plant Quarantine Laboratory at KRT Airport under the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, where she led diagnostic operations and lab rehabilitation, and played a key role in capacity-building efforts within the plant health sector and cross-border agricultural inspections.</p> <p>Yousria joined the IFU in July 2025. Her work focuses on supporting the development and review of technical materials, enhancing the quality of Arabic IPPC documents, improving the content of the International Phytosanitary Portal. She is involved in analyzing national reports, addressing implementation challenges, developing tools for pest outbreak response, refining pest survey protocols, and organizing regional workshops in the Near East and North Africa.</p> <p>Yousria holds a Master's of Science in Plant Pathology from the University of Khartoum and a</p> |

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| | | Postgraduate Diploma in English General Translation from the University of Bahri. She speaks English and Arabic. |
|  | Evgjeni LARUSHI Intern Based in: Rome (HQ) E-mail: Evgjeni.Larushi@fao.org | <p>Evgjeni holds a Master's degree in Economics and Communication for Management and Innovation from Sapienza University of Rome. She earned her Bachelor's degree in Economics and completed an exchange semester in Poland. With experience across finance, operations, and communication, Evgjeni is fluent in Albanian, English, and Italian.</p> <p>She provides transversal support to the IFU, with a particular focus on the IPPC Plant Health Campus.</p> |
| PCE and POARS | | |
|  | Samuel SOUBEYRAND Biostatistics Specialist Based in: France E-mail: Samuel.Soubeyrand@fao.org | <p>Samuel is a researcher at Institut National de Recherche pour l'Agriculture, l'Alimentation et l'Environnement (INRAE) and, since March 1st, 2026, is an in-kind staff within the Implementation and Facilitation Unit of the IPPC Secretariat for one year (50% of time) as an expert in biostatistics.</p> <p>At INRAE, Samuel's research focuses on methodological developments in statistical inference, heterogeneous data analysis, spatio-temporal modeling, and mechanistic-statistical modeling. These approaches are primarily applied to epidemiology, with the aim of characterizing, inferring, and predicting the emergence and spread of pests and diseases using diverse data sources, ranging from molecular genomic sequences to surveillance and environmental data.</p> <p>Within the Implementation and Facilitation Unit, Samuel contributes to leveraging models, data analysis and visualization, and sampling strategies across several IPPC programmes, including POARS (Pest Outbreak Alert and Response System) and PCE (Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation).</p> |

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|  | <p>Evgenia SARA KATSANI POARS Horizon Scanning and Technical Coordination Specialist</p> <p>Based in: Greece E-mail: Evgenia.Sarakatsani@fao.org</p> | <p>Evgenia Sarakatsani holds a PhD in Entomology from the University of Palermo (Italy), where she researched the effects of Mediterranean flowering plants and the nectar microbiome on parasitoids of economically important insect pests.</p> <p>She also gained experience in horizon scanning during her tenure within the Plant Health monitoring team at the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA), working on the identification and ranking of emerging and recurring pests from all over the world.</p> <p>Within the IPPC, she supports the operational delivery of Pest Outbreak Alert & Response Systems (POARS) activities through horizon scanning, synthesis of pest information, preparation of technical outputs, and support to POARS Steering Group and Expert Working Group processes.</p> |
| One Health | | |
|  | <p>Fanette FONTAINE One Health, AMR and Microbiome Specialist</p> <p>Based in: Rome. E-mail: Fanette.Fontaine@fao.org</p> | <p>Fanette holds a PhD in Microbiology and Molecular Biology from University Pierre and Marie Curie (France), and has completed additional certifications in Epidemiology, Environmental Health, and Global Health through the NIH Foundation (USA). She previously served as an Assistant Professor in Microbiology at University of Paris Cité.</p> <p>Since 2019, she has been working with FAO as an expert in antimicrobial resistance (AMR), microbiome, and One Health, contributing to several publication and technical work for different divisions SP1, ESF, ESN, and NSA.</p> <p>Within the IPPC Implementation and Facilitation Unit, she leads technical work on two forthcoming publications: one on the IPPC Observatory study on antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and antimicrobial use (AMU) in plant health, and another on the importance of plant health within the One Health framework, including the development of actionable recommendations through focus group coordination and stakeholder consultations.</p> <p>She contributes to the FAO One Health Working Group and the FAO One Health Conference, and supports the team in strengthening the integration of plant health within the One Health agenda.</p> |

| Engagement and outreach | | |
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|  | <p>Vladimir MIJATOVIC Digital Engagement Specialist</p> <p>Based in: Rome (HQ) E-mail: Vladimir.Mijatovic@fao.org</p> | <p>Vladimir is a creative and communications practitioner with over seven years of experience across the United Nations system, including the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the World Bank Group. He works to make complex scientific topics understandable and actionable.</p> <p>Trained in political science and later digital marketing, Vladimir has worked across NGOs, government, academia, museums and refugee centres - spaces that have shaped his belief that how knowledge is shared is as important as the knowledge itself.</p> <p>Vladimir is a Fellow of the Planetary Health Alliance of the Johns Hopkins University's Bloomberg School of Public Health. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts.</p> <p>At the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) Secretariat, Vladimir strengthens engagement between IPPC and its beneficiaries, ensuring that implementation and capacity development tools and programmes are accessible and applied by countries.</p> |
| Report writing and copyediting | | |
|  | <p>Lucy HOGAN Report writer</p> <p>Based in: Ireland E-mail: Lucy.Hogan@fao.org</p> | <p>Lucy Hogan is Irish. She holds a BSc in Biochemistry from the University of Bath, UK, and an MPhil in Linguistics from Trinity College Dublin, Ireland.</p> <p>She previously worked as an editor and project manager (in-house and as a consultant) for the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change secretariat, Green Climate Fund, World Organisation for Animal Health (where she was also Head of Publications), Royal Irish Academy and various publishing houses.</p> |

| e-Phyto team | | |
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|  | <p>Gianluca NUZZO ePhyto Coordinator</p> <p>Based in: Rome (HQ) E-mail: Gianluca.Nuzzo@fao.org</p> | <p>Gianluca serves as Product Manager for IPPC ePhyto Solution within the IPPC Secretariat.</p> <p>He has 27 years of experience in ICT, including 22 years within the UN system. He has actively worked on enterprise and system architecture, business analysis, and solution design, leading the implementation and delivery of several solutions rolled out globally.</p> <p>His experience in designing and developing solutions, mixed with his Agricultural Science and Technology university studies, helped him and the team achieve such global success with ePhyto Solution.</p> <p>He holds professional certifications such as PMI, ITIL, TOGAF9, PRINCE2, CISSP, CBAP. He speaks English and Italian.</p> |
|  | <p>Valeria LUGINI IPPC Programme Specialist</p> <p>Based in: Rome (HQ) E-mail: Valeria.Lugini@fao.org</p> | <p>Valeria supports the implementation of the IPPC ePhyto solution, contributing to budget monitoring, procurement processes, and the preparation of technical documents.</p> <p>She has gained eight years of professional experience, with six years at Ernst & Young Advisory and two years at the FAO, supporting European and international public programmes. At Ernst & Young, she contributed to policy analysis for EU institutions, assisted process improvement projects for international organisations, supported national authorities in managing European funds, and helped organise training activities within EU programmes.</p> <p>She is certified as a Scrum Master, which helps her work effectively in structured and results-oriented environments. She speaks English, Italian and Spanish.</p> |